This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims **1 – 36 (Canceled).**

Claim **37 (Currently Amended).** Carbon particles having surface filaments ~~used in oil spills,~~ comprising in combination:

a plurality of carbon filaments that are approximately one micron in mean diameter, the carbon filaments ~~consisting~~ produced solely ~~of~~ from thermocatalytic decomposition of hydrocarbon fuel in the presence of carbon black catalyst;

a structure of loose curved elongated worm shaped filaments, with a portion of the structure being substantially hollow, and each of the loose curved elongated worm shaped filaments being substantially of tubular, with longitudinal uniformity and of graphitic structure; and

a hydrophobic property of oil film adsorption from a surface of water.

Claim **38 (Canceled).**

Claim **39 (Currently Amended).** The method of producing carbon particles having surface filaments of about one micron mean diameter, a structure of loose curved elongated worm shaped filaments, with a hollow portion, and each of the filaments having a tubular, longitudinal uniformity, of graphitic structure, consisting of:

a(1) passing electrical current through catalytic material that consists solely of ~~carbon black~~ a carbon-based material and;

a(2) heating the catalytic material consisting solely of ~~carbon black~~ a carbon-based material to about 850°C to about 1200°C;

b) passing a stream of hydrocarbon fuel through the catalytic material consisting solely of ~~carbon black~~ a carbon-based material with production of hydrogen-rich gas and carbon with filamentary surface deposited on the surface of the catalytic material; and

c) recovering carbon particles with a filamentary surface, wherein the carbon particles have surface filaments of about one micron mean diameter in a structure of loose curved elongated worm shaped filaments, with a hollow portion, and each of the filaments having a tubular, longitudinal uniformity, of graphitic structure.

Claim 40 **(Canceled).**

Claims **41 – 43 (Canceled).**

Claim 44 (Currently Amended). The carbon particles ~~having surface filaments used in oil spills~~ of claim 37, wherein the plurality of carbon filaments are produced in the presence of carbon-based catalyst materials.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended). The carbon particles ~~having surface filaments used in oil spills~~ of claim 44, wherein the plurality of carbon filaments ~~are~~ have a diameter of from approximately four to approximately 2000 nm ~~in diameter~~.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended). The carbon particles ~~having surface filaments used in oil spills~~ of claim 44 wherein the carbon based materials are selected solely from carbon black (CB).

Claim 47 (Currently Amended). The carbon particles ~~having surface filaments used in oil spills~~ of claim 44, wherein the wherein the plurality of carbon filaments form ~~an "octopus" like~~ a loose, curved, elongated worm shaped structure ~~as shown in Figure 4~~.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended). The carbon particles ~~having surface filaments used in oil spills~~ of claim 47, wherein the ~~"octopus"~~ structure consists of ~~[a]~~ loose, curved, elongated worm shaped filaments, and wherein a portion of the filaments is hollow, tubular and longitudinally uniform.

Claims 49 - 50 (Canceled).

Claim 51 (Currently Amended). The carbon particles ~~having surface filaments used in oil spills~~ of claim 48, wherein the hydrophobic property includes:

~~particles scattered over the surface of an oil spill pellicle, wherein the particles breakup the oil pellicle and form a plurality of separated oil/carbon isles~~

a particle structure that functions as a sponge and readily adsorbs oil from a water surface.

Claims 52 - 54 (Canceled).

Claim 55 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 39, wherein the catalytic material is solely the carbon black.

Claim 56 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 39, wherein the catalytic material consists of: solely activated charcoal ~~iron and aluminum oxide (Fe-alumina)~~.

Claims 57 - 61 (Canceled).